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Measures to eliminate international terrorism

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Letter dated 2 July 2001 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I wish to draw your attention to the latest acts of terrorism committed by Palestinians over the last several days.

Shortly after 8 a.m. (local time) this morning, two car bombs exploded in the Tel Aviv suburb of Yehud, one of them in close proximity to a day-care centre. Six pedestrians were wounded in the attack, two of whom were admitted to the hospital to be treated for shock.

Several hours earlier, Israel intercepted three Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists en route to carry out a terrorist attack inside Israel. All three terrorists had previously been involved in planning and implementing terrorist attacks against Israelis and were travelling in a car packed with explosives. By eliminating these three terrorists, Israeli forces undoubtedly prevented yet another act of gruesome carnage from being perpetrated on the streets of Israel.

This past Thursday, 28 June 2001, Palestinian gunmen ambushed an Israeli vehicle carrying two women and a child. Katya Weintraub, age 27, was killed after being shot in the chest as she returned home with her son Ariel, age 4, from a doctor's appointment. Yehudit Eliahu, age 47, suffered a compound fracture after being shot in the legs.

On Tuesday, 26 June 2001, Palestinian gunmen opened heavy fire on Jewish residents of Hebron. In the course of the shooting, David Struk, age 7, was wounded by a bullet as he played on the balcony of his family's home. Earlier that day, Palestinian gunmen, firing from the village of El-Khader, opened fire on a bus travelling to Jerusalem, wounding two Israeli women.

On Friday, 22 June 2001, two Israeli soldiers were on patrol when they were beckoned to come to the assistance of a vehicle that was apparently stuck in the sand. As they approached, a Palestinian suicide bomber detonated an explosive killing Sgt. Aviv Iszak and Sgt. Ofir Kit, both aged 19.

* A/56/50.

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In addition, Palestinian mortar attacks on Israeli communities have continued on a near-daily basis. Israeli soldiers continue to be targeted by Palestinian gunmen and a number have been wounded over the last several days.

These attacks are merely the latest attacks in a more than nine-month campaign of Palestinian terrorism that has been detailed in my letters dated 21 June 2001 (A/56/119-S/2001/619), 19 June 2001 (A/56/98-S/2001/611), 18 June 2001 (A/56/97-S/2001/604), 13 June 2001 (A/56/92-S/2001/585), 11 June 2001 (A/56/91-S/2001/580), 4 June 2001 (A/56/85-S/2001/555), 30 May 2001 (A/56/81-S/2001/540), 25 May 2001 (A/56/80-S/2001/524), 18 May 2001 (A/56/78-S/2001/506), 11 May 2001 (A/56/72-S/2001/473), 9 May 2001 (A/56/69-S/2001/459), 1 May 2001 (A/55/924-S/2001/435), 23 April 2001 (A/55/910-S/2001/396), 16 April 2001 (A/55/901-S/2001/364), 28 March 2001 (A/55/863-S/2001/291), 27 March 2001 (A/55/860-S/2001/280), 26 March 2001 (A/55/858-S/2001/278), 19 March 2001 (A/55/842-S/2001/244), 5 March 2001 (A/55/821-S/2001/193), 2 March 2001 (A/55/819-S/2001/187), 14 February 2001 (A/55/787-S/2001/137), 13 February 2001 (A/55/781-S/2001/132), 2 February 2001 (A/55/762-S/2001/103), 25 January 2001 (A/55/748-S/2001/81), 23 January 2001 (A/55/742-S/2001/71), 28 December 2000 (A/55/719-S/2000/1252), 22 November 2000 (A/55/641-S/2000/1114), 20 November 2000 (A/55/634-S/2000/1108) and 2 November 2000 (A/55/540-S/2000/1065).

These attacks also come as Israel is acting to implement the Tenet ceasefire. Israel continues to confine its military action to the realm of self-defence and has taken steps to alleviate the situation of the general Palestinian population by lifting closures around the cities of Jericho, Qalqilia, Jenin, Tulkarm and Nablus. Israeli troops have redeployed from a number of locations and roadblocks have been dismantled, opening roads to Palestinian traffic. In addition, the international crossings at Rafah and Allenby have been opened to Palestinian commercial and civilian traffic. All these steps have been taken despite ongoing Palestinian attacks that jeopardize the success of the ceasefire.

Israel reiterates its call upon the Palestinian leadership to adhere to the terms of the ceasefire as outlined in the Tenet plan and to take immediate and concerted action to control all acts of violence emanating from the territory under its control.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 179 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yehuda **Lancry**
Permanent Representative